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DJIA 24386.03 ▲ 56.87 0.2% NASDAQ 6875.08 ▲ 0.5% STOXX 600 389.05 ▼ 0.1% 10-YR. TREAS. ▼ 1/32, yield 2.387% OIL \$57.99 ▲ \$0.63 GOLD \$1,243.70 ▼ \$1.50 EURO \$1.1771 YEN 113.56

What's News

Business & Finance

A provision in the Senate tax plan could lead to a higher tax bill for millions of individual investors and cause many to unload stocks before year-end. **A1**

◆ **Web-driven** comparison shopping has helped keep a lid on inflation, complicating the Fed's rate decisions. **A1**

◆ **SoftBank** has agreed to invest roughly \$500 million more in satellite broadband provider OneWeb. **B1**

◆ **Comcast** ended its pursuit of 21st Century Fox assets, leaving Fox in position to finalize a deal with Disney. **B1**

◆ **Verizon's** new streaming deal with the NFL trades mobile exclusivity for rights on Yahoo and other platforms. **B1**

◆ **Bitcoin futures** expiring in January settled at \$18,545, up 24% from the first trade value, in the debut of futures on the digital currency. **B1**

◆ **Bitcoin exchanges** and brokerages have experienced service outages amid surging interest among investors. **B4**

◆ **Tech and energy shares** lifted the Dow and S&P 500 to records. The industrials rose 56.87 to 24386.03. **B11**

◆ **Icahn** plans a new board fight with Xerox in an attempt to find a new CEO. **B2**

◆ **HSBC** is set to be released from its deferred-prosecution agreement with the Justice Department. **B10**

◆ **Mario Batali** stepped down from operations at his restaurant firm after sexual-misconduct allegations. **B6**

◆ **Mattel** warned of another gloomy holiday season as its key toy brands struggle. **B3**

World-Wide

◆ **A Bangladeshi immigrant** inspired by Islamic State set off a pipe bomb at a New York City transit hub, but the explosive fizzled, burning him and injuring three others. **A1**

◆ **Alabama's special election** to fill Sessions' former Senate seat comes to a high-stakes conclusion on Tuesday. **A3**

◆ **A judge denied** a renewed bid by the administration to prevent transgender people from joining the military. **A3**

◆ **A wildfire** in Southern California threatened new areas as it pushed west into Santa Barbara County. **A3**

◆ **The planned overhaul** of U.S. corporate tax law came under attack from finance ministers in Europe. **A8**

◆ **Trump's chief** trade adviser issued his first detailed criticism of the WTO. **A8**

◆ **Putin paid** a surprise visit to a military air base in Syria, a bid to showcase Russia's rising Mideast influence. **A7**

◆ **The administration** will nominate as envoy to Seoul a Korea expert who favors a tough line on Pyongyang. **A11**

◆ **The White House** opposed fresh calls for Congress to investigate allegations of sexual misconduct by Trump. **A4**

◆ **Lawmakers are moving** to change procedures for reporting sexual harassment on Capitol Hill. **A4**

◆ **The FDA plans** new medical-device approval processes to speed market entry. **A5**

◆ **Saudi Arabia** lifted a decades-old prohibition on movie theaters. **A9**

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DEW ANGREG/GETTY IMAGES

Officials stepped up security following Monday's attempted bombing in New York, a city that experts called a 'soft target.' New York Police Department officers stand guard, above, near the bus terminal where the attacker tried to detonate a pipe bomb.

Bomber Jolts New York Commute

Botched attack creates rush-hour snarl; suspect cites Islamic State as he, three others hurt

A 27-year-old Bangladeshi immigrant inspired by Islamic State internet propaganda set off a pipe bomb strapped to

By Zolan Kanno-Youngs, Melanie Grayce West and Paul Berger

his body as he blended with rush-hour commuters in one of New York City's busiest transit hubs Monday morning,

authorities said, but the explosive fizzled, burning him and injuring three others.

Akayed Ullah, an electrical worker, detonated the low-tech device at about 7:20 a.m. in a crowded passageway that connects the massive Port Authority Bus Terminal and Manhattan's crowded Times Square subway station, police said. He had taken the subway from his home in Brooklyn. Other than a traffic violation, the former livery car driver had not appeared on authorities' radar.

Such an attack has long been feared in the packed subways that keep America's most populous city running, but



Terror Suspect

- ◆ Akayed Ullah, age 27, of Bangladesh
- ◆ Came to the U.S. legally in 2011 on immigrant visa for relatives of U.S. citizens
- ◆ In custody at hospital with burns from explosion

New York was fortunate Monday: there was mainly inconvenience.

President Donald Trump took aim at the type of visa used by Mr. Ullah, which is granted to siblings of immigrants, while also calling on Congress to make changes to

U.S. immigration policy.

"America must fix its lax immigration system, which allows far too many dangerous, inadequately vetted people to

Please see ATTACK page A2

◆ Suspect described as 'always on edge'..... A2

Bitcoin Leaps Into the Future

The anticipated launch of bitcoin futures trading fueled exuberance for the digital currency. Contracts expiring in January rose through the day, settling 24% higher than the first recorded trade. **B1**

Value of bitcoin in dollars, at one-minute intervals



Online Price Wars Vex Fed on Inflation

By HARRIET TORRY AND LAURA STEVENS

Holiday shoppers with smartphones can retrieve instant price comparisons that make bargain hunting easier—and the Federal Reserve's job tougher.

Web-driven comparison shopping complicates Fed decisions on how much and how fast to raise interest rates. Consumer knowledge is keeping a lid on prices that retailers can charge on a wealth of goods, a small but growing factor holding down inflation in the U.S., Japan and other advanced economies

The Fed is likely to announce Wednesday the raising of its benchmark short-term rate by a quarter percentage point, to a still-low range of 1.25% to 1.50%. Officials also will release their latest projections for the likely path of rates in the years ahead,

which will influence mortgages, credit cards and other consumer loans, business borrowing and global financial markets.

Fed officials, along with central bankers in Europe and Japan, want inflation to rise to an annual rate of around 2%, considered a healthy level for spending, business investment and higher wages. With the U.S. economy expanding, and very low unemployment, an interest-rate increase would help forestall asset bubbles or other financial dangers.

Most Fed policy makers agree they should keep gradually raising short-term rates in the months ahead to prevent the buoyant U.S. economy from overheating. But some are hesitant because inflation remains puzzlingly weak, run-

Please see RATES page A11

◆ Retailers simplify prices by doing markdown math..... B3

High-Tech Hedge Fund Finds Limit of Robot Stock Picking

Using machine learning to invest is hard, two quants with Ph.D.s discover

By BRADLEY HOPE AND JULIET CHUNG

BERKELEY, Calif.—For Michael Kharitonov, building a hedge fund based on machine learning has been a rule of threes: It was three times as hard, and it took three times as long, as anticipated.

"Most of the things we've tried have failed," said the co-founder of a little-known firm called Voleon Group.

Machine learning, a set of techniques that empowers computers to find patterns in data without using rules prescribed by humans, has been producing advances in a range of fields, from robotics to weather forecasting to language translation. The

technique is at the heart of efforts to build self-driving cars.

Why not use it to crack financial markets? The notion has led to an arms race of sorts, as multibillion-dollar investment firms that already were mathematically focused have been signing up the smartest computer scientists and statisticians they can find.

The gambit seems to be working for two of this year's top-performing hedge funds. Quantitative Investment Management LLC, up 68% this year in its biggest fund, attributes its success to the technique. Teza Capital Management LLC credits machine learning in part for its more than 50% gain so far

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INSIDE



PLEASE HUG AN EAGLES FAN

JASON GAY, A16



TASMANIAN TIGER'S GENETIC TALE

WORLD NEWS, A9

Florida Sleuths Investigate the Mystery Ships of Hurricane Irma

Storm churns up a Soviet relic, an ancient canoe and a sailboat crewed by dummies

By JOHN CLARKE

The day after Hurricane Irma hit Florida, Randy Lathrop jumped on his bike at first light to assess the damage.

He soon spotted something exceedingly peculiar. The 62-year-old photographer from Cocoa, Fla., was pedaling along Indian River Drive under swirling clouds, he says, when he saw a rough wooden object resembling a canoe.

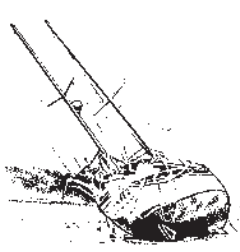
He took a photograph and texted it to an archaeologist friend, writing " WTF!!!!" His friend replied that it looked like an ancient dugout. Was that even possible? The mystery ships had ar-

rived. Mr. Lathrop's find, which set off an official effort to trace its provenance, was among a barrage of vessels and assorted flotsam half-sunk and washed up along southern

Florida's coast after the Category 4 hurricane in September.

An enigma washed up on Sept. 12 at Dania Beach in a state park near Miami, a 12-foot buoy with rust-colored vertical stripes. Park employees who dragged it off the beach noticed Russian writing on the side.

No one on the spot could translate it fully, says park spokesman John Frosbutter. Please see SHIPS page A12



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